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Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes – March 2011

Faculty Senators

University of South Alabama

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March 23, 2011
3pm -- Library Auditorium
MINUTES

Present: Estis, Gubler, Carr, Connors, Fisher, Guzy, Haywick, Hillman, Marshall, Moore, Roddy, Shaw, Shelly-Tremblay, Toelken, Langan, Kingman, Byrd, Campbell, Davidson-Shivers, Norrell, P. Turnipseed, Finley, Lemley, Nero, Martinko, Rachek, Madden Retzlaff-Roberts, D. Turnipseed, Herf, Keasler, Meyer, Minchew, Quiett

Excused: E. Adams, Spector, Dardeau, Lunceford, Powers, Feinstein, Summerlin, M. Adams, Omar, Green, Grishko, Kahn, Kaulfers, Brown

Unexcused: Husain, Donovan, Bosarge, Perry, Rizk, Rusyniak,

1. Call to order—3:03pm, quorum at 3:49pm
2. Approval of minutes from the February meeting— S. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by P. Carr. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. President's report - J. Connors

Happy Fulford has invited faculty to participate in Higher Education Day in Montgomery on April 7, 2011. D. Keasler recommended that the Executive Committee attend. Approximately, five of the Executive Committee members will be able to attend. If anyone else can attend, it would help us make a positive impression on the legislators.

4. Old Business

a. Ad Hoc Committees

i. Calendar Committee (Tom Meyer & Phil Carr)

A faculty survey has been discussed with John Smith, David Johnson, and Keith Harrison. The administration wanted to have input in the wording of some of the questions and wanted to clarify the intent of the survey. The survey has been finalized, and the Evaluation Committee will present it to the faculty within the next week. The survey consists of 6 or 7 questions.

ii. Public Relations Committee (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)

The committee will meet next week. A perpetual plaque has been ordered for the Faculty Club to display the Faculty Senate awards.

iii. Cost Saving Committee (Kathryn Toelken)

The committee met with Kelly Peters and Scott Weldon. They are very pleased that the Faculty Senate is working on this. They also met with Wayne Davis to discuss these initiatives from an administrative standpoint. J. Connors will meet with other administrators this week to discuss faculty involvement. For example, vendor payments have gone to a direct deposit system and have saved paper and personnel costs near \$10,000.

b. Constitutional Reform

The Board of Trustees approved the new constitution on March 11, 2011. The next step will be to create and approve new bylaws.

c. Faculty Club

We have been assured that the facility will be called the “Faculty Club.” Construction remains in progress.

d. Faculty Senate Banquet

Senators were asked to please make every effort to attend the Faculty Senate Banquet on April 1, 2011 at 6pm at the Fairhope Yacht Club. The award recipients will attend, as well as some administrators.

e. Nondiscrimination Policy

There is a meeting scheduled for March 24, 2010 with the university attorney, David Johnson, John Smith, Jim Connors, and Kim Proctor (SGA president) to discuss this issue further.

f. Student Recreation Center

J. Connors discussed faculty concerns regarding the recreation center with John Smith. This item will remain on the agenda for the next senate year. One additional concern is that there are not enough lockers for faculty. The guest fee was also restated as a concern.

g. Elections

Caucus leaders are carrying out elections right now. S. Fisher reported that nominations will be presented at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

5. New Business

a. Faculty response to disaster in Japan

J. Connors described the massive destruction that has occurred in Japan. There are a couple of universities in the impact area. In particular, there is one university that is very similar to USA. We have connections by which we could put together a faculty response to support this university. There are needs for rice, clean water, blankets, etc. A committee to assess the needs and develop ways to assist was formed and is comprised of Kathy Toelken, Phil Carr, Sam Fisher, Cindy Herf, Thomas Shaw, and Jim Connors.

6. Committee Reports

- Academic Development and Mentoring (Phil Carr)—The committee will be meeting to prepare their year-end report.
- Environmental Quality (Doug Marshall)—The committee has been so successful that the university created a committee to address the sustainability issues across campus. Cassie Fambro (student leader) and D. Marshall presented to the Board of Trustees. By Fall semester, the sustainability efforts should be apparent across campus. The committee is now looking at the Glen Sebastian trail. There is a new clearing between the library and HUMB.

Plans are underway to improve access in that area. They will also address the erosion issues in that area.

- Evaluation (Patsy Turnipseed)—P. Turnipseed was not in attendance but reported via email that the Faculty Evaluation is slated to go out the first week in April.
- Planning and Development (Jack Shelley-Tremblay)—The committee is working to define the roles and the future of the planning and development committee. J. Shelley-Tremblay asked for input regarding the historic role of this committee. It was reported that the Faculty Club and the running trail were efforts of this committee. Currently, the chair of this committee does not sit on university committees that address planning and development issues. The Faculty Senate Chair and Chair-Elect serve on a long range planning committee. It may be possible to add the chair of this committee to serve on long range planning.
- Policies and Faculty Handbook (Sam Fisher)—The updated Faculty Handbook is now available online. Robert Shearer has been contracted to review the Faculty Handbook to clarify the document. An oversight committee has been formed to address this review. The Faculty Handbook committee needs to be aware of the proposed changes.
- Salary and Benefits (Elizabeth Adams)—No report.
- Technology Utilization (Diane Keasler)—An academic computing meeting will take place next month. Email digesting and My USA portal are both moving forward.

7. Caucus Reports

- Allied Health (Mike Spector)—No report.
- Arts and Sciences (Thomas Shaw & Laura Moore)—Nominations and elections for new senators are underway. The A&S faculty senators will meet soon.
- Continuing Education (Amy Kingman)—New math lab will open in two weeks in the old recreation center.
- Computer and Information Sciences (David Langan)—No report.
- Education (Dennis Campbell)—No report.
- Engineering (Francis Donovan)—No report.
- Library (Vera Finley)—Senate elections for the library are complete.
- Mitchell College of Business (Donna Retzlaff-Roberts)—Nominations/elections are underway. The response to the election has been limited thus far.
- Medicine (?)—No report.
- Nursing (Henri Brown)—D. Keasler reported that the elections process is complete for the College of Nursing.

Additional comments:

Doug Haywick asked if others were aware of changes to university funding in other states. J. Connors responded that he recently met with the governor, and there were no indications of that sentiment from his office.

J. Connors announced that the Mobile Regional Science Fair will be held on Friday. It is the largest science fair in the state. The faculty will serve as volunteer judges.

S. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. D. Campbell provided a second. The Senate unanimously voted to adjourn.